



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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SBA Makes Low Interest Disaster Loans Available for Severe Storms and Tornadoes Victims

WASHINGTON – Low-interest disaster loans will be made available by the U.S. Small Business Administration to South Carolina residents and businesses affected by the severe storms and tornadoes on March 15, 2008, SBA Administrator Steve Preston announced today.

Administrator Preston took this action following an April 2 letter from South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Aiken, Allendale, Williamsburg and the adjacent counties of Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Clarendon, Colleton, Edgefield, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Lexington, Marion, Orangeburg and Saluda in the State of South Carolina; and the counties of Burke, Richmond and Screven in the State of Georgia.

“We have been working closely with Gov. Sanford and his staff to identify the areas that need help and complete our evaluations of the damage caused by these storms,” said Administrator Preston. “Now we can start working directly with the residents of these communities, the renters, homeowners and businesses who need SBA disaster loans to help finance their recovery.”

Frank Skaggs, Director of Disaster Field Operations Center East said, “Residents, both homeowners and renters, are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. The SBA’s Customer Service Representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete their application.”

The Centers will be located in the following communities and will open as indicated:

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| <u>Aiken County</u> Bath Fire Department 115 School Road Bath, SC 29816 Opens: Tuesday, April 8 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, April 12 th , 9 a.m. – 1p.m. (one Saturday Only) | <u>Allendale County</u> Allendale County Courthouse 391 Barnwell-Allendale Hwy Allendale, SC 29810 Opens: Tuesday, April 8 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, April 12 th , 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (one Saturday Only) |
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Williamsburg County

Williamsburg County Recreation Complex
2084 Thurgood Marshall Highway
Kingstree, SC 29556

Opens: Tuesday, April 8

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 12th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(one Saturday Only)

Elliott Cooper, SBA's South Carolina District Director stresses, "Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to renters, homeowners, businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the severe storms and tornadoes."

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory, and other business assets. The SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage in the future.

For small businesses only, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Centers in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call **(800) 877-8339**.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **June 2, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **January 5, 2009**.

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For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov.